

March 5, 2023

RE: OPPOSING H.B. 6667 "An Act Addressing Gun Violence"

RE: OPPOSING H.B. 6816 "An Act Concerning Micro-Stamping Pistols,..."

---

I am writing in strong opposition to H.B. 6667 and H.B. 6816. When is this continued gun control insanity going to stop? Over and over again our Connecticut politicians ignore the fact that the violent crimes in our state are not being perpetrated by law abiding gun owners. In almost every single case, the crimes committed with guns are done so by people that have obtained their firearms illegally. In almost every single case the criminals who committed crimes had criminal records that prevented them from obtaining a legal firearm. Both on the Federal and State level, an extensive network of laws exist to prevent criminals from getting firearms legally. Maybe we should enforce the current laws? Put more teeth to these laws where if you commit any crime with a gun, it is a mandatory 20 years in prison, which cannot be reduced. Both these bills do absolutely nothing to stop crime but do everything to prevent a law abiding citizen from owning a gun and exercise their Constitutional Rights.

Outside of the exhausting network of current gun laws, our politicians seem to always ignore mental health. Nowhere in either of this proposed bills is there any mention of mental healthcare. If we go back 30+ years ago, many schools had gun clubs, with the guns kept in the schools. People did not worry about people shooting people in school. So, what has changed? Guns have always been around. What has changed is the severe lack of mental health care. State hospitals have virtually all been closed. I never hear many members of the Government that go on TV to demand gun control ever discuss mental health. Why? Because they do not want to address the root causes of mental health, but rather take away the rights of legal gun owners. Again, I will say, guns have always been around. What has changed is the mental health and care for the mentally ill.

Lastly, micro-stamping does not work. I have a degreed background in both mechanical and material science engineering. This technology has so many variables which prevent it from working, including material hardness, imprint depth variation, and potential to affect the function of the firearm. It is said to 'help law enforcement', but how does that work when the vast majority of firearm crimes are done by criminals with illegal firearms? So, what is this technology for? It is only providing a legislative tool for the Government to further prevent law abiding gun owners from owning firearms via backdoor methods.

Enough is enough. Let's focus on making sure these criminals don't see the light of day if they commit crimes with guns. Let's make mental health a priority, bring back modern State Hospitals, and heavily fund the mental health system.

Thank you.

John Plaster